

Appl. No. 09/914,966
Atty. Docket No. 7456R
Amendment Dated December 7, 2005
Reply to Office Action Dated September 16, 2005
Customer No. 27752

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-32 (Cancelled)

Claim 33 (New) A fiber comprising starch, wherein the fiber has an average fiber diameter of less than 10 μm .

Claim 34 (New) The fiber according to Claim 33 wherein the fiber comprises from about 20% to about 99.99% by weight of the fiber of starch.

Claim 35 (New) The fiber according to Claim 33 wherein the fiber further comprises a plasticizer.

Claim 36 (New) The fiber according to Claim 35 wherein the plasticizer selected from the group consisting of: sorbitol, monosaccharides, disaccharides, glycerol, polyvinyl alcohol, polyethylene glycol and mixtures thereof.

Claim 37 (New) The fiber according to Claim 35 wherein the plasticizer is present in the fiber at a level of from about 5% to about 70% by weight of the fiber.

Claim 38 (New) The fiber according to Claim 33 wherein the fiber further comprises a cross-linking agent.

Claim 39 (New) The fiber according to Claim 38 wherein the cross-linking agent is selected from the group consisting of: polyamide-epichlorohydrin resins, urea-formaldehyde resins, glyoxylated polyacrylamide resins, melamine formaldehyde resins, polyethylenimine resins, dialdehyde starch resins and mixtures thereof.

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Claim 40 (New) The fiber according to Claim 38 wherein the cross-linking agent is present in the fiber at a level of from about 0.1% to about 10% by weight of the fiber.

Claim 41 (New) A fibrous structure comprising a plurality of fibers, wherein at least one fiber is a fiber according to Claim 33.

Claim 42 (New) The fibrous structure according to Claim 41 wherein the fibrous structure has an absorbency ranging from about $1 \frac{\text{g}_{\text{Water}}}{\text{g}_{\text{Dry Structure}}}$ to about $15 \frac{\text{g}_{\text{Water}}}{\text{g}_{\text{Dry Structure}}}$.

Claim 43 (New) The fibrous structure according to Claim 41 wherein the fibrous structure has a total flexibility ranging from about 1.0 g/cm to about 75 g/cm.

Claim 44 (New) The fibrous structure according to Claim 41 wherein the fibrous structure has a geometric mean dry tensile strength ranging from about 10 g/cm to about 1200 g/cm.

Claim 45 (New) The fibrous structure according to Claim 41 wherein the fibrous structure has an initial geometric mean wet tensile strength ranging from about 2 g/cm to about 400 g/cm.

Claim 46 (New) The fibrous structure according to Claim 45 wherein the fibrous structure has an initial geometric mean wet tensile strength ranging from about 2 g/cm to about 200 g/cm.

Claim 47 (New) The fibrous structure according to Claim 41 wherein the fibrous structure has a geometric mean decayed wet tensile strength ranging from about 0 g/cm to about 20 g/cm.

Claim 48 (New) The fibrous structure according to Claim 41 wherein the fibrous structure has a basis weight ranging from about 10 g/m^2 to about 450 g/m^2 .

Claim 49 (New) The fibrous structure according to Claim 41 wherein the fibrous structure has an apparent density ranging from about 0.04 g/cm^3 to about 0.12 g/cm^3 .

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Claims 50 (New) The fiber according to Claim 33 wherein the fiber is a melt blown fiber.

Claim 51 (New) The fiber according to Claim 33 wherein the fiber is a spunbond fiber.

Claim 52 (New) A paper product comprising a fibrous structure, wherein the fibrous structure comprises a fiber comprising starch, wherein the fiber has an average fiber diameter of less than 10 μm .